

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 538 - SB 950**

February 23, 2023

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires eligible individuals applying for or renewing a driver license or photo identification to be automatically registered to vote, unless the person declines registration by checking a box indicating their refusal. Authorizes the Department of Safety (DOS) to exhaust existing supplies of applications, forms, and documents which would otherwise comply prior to passage of this legislation. For purposes of carrying out administrative duties to implement this legislation, the effective date is upon becoming law; for all other purposes, the effective date is January 1, 2024.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Revenue – \$30,000/FY23-24/Strategic Technology Solutions**

**Increase State Expenditures – \$30,000/FY23-24/Department of Safety  
\$240,000/FY23-24/General Fund**

**Other Fiscal Impact – To the extent that the required modifications to the Department of Safety’s A-List system can be accomplished within available resources provided under the current vendor contract, those changes will not result in an increase in state expenditures. Otherwise, those modifications could result in an additional one-time increase in state expenditures of up to \$78,000 in FY23-24.**

**Assumptions:**

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-2-201, DOS includes a voter registration application as part of any motor vehicle driver or photo identification license application and such applications offer individuals the option to decline to register to vote.
- The proposed language would automatically register any person applying for a motor vehicle driver or photo identification license to vote, unless they indicate otherwise utilizing a box on the application stating, “IF YOU DO NOT CHECK THIS BOX, AND IT IS DETERMINED THAT YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE, YOU WILL BE REGISTERED TO VOTE USING THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS APPLICATION.”
- Currently, there is no additional room to add the required statement to the printed driver license application form.
- Per the language of this legislation, DOS is not required to comply until updates or the creation of new electronic or paper applications, forms, or other documents are

**HB 538 - SB 950**

available. Further, DOS is authorized to exhaust existing supplies of applications, forms, and documents before complying.

- Therefore, there will not be a significant increase in state expenditures related to printing physical driver license application forms to comply with this legislation, as it is assumed the new form will be printed within the existing printing schedule.
- According to information provided by DOS, implementing the requirements of the proposed legislation will require updates to the department's A-List system, changes to web services, and changes to the department's Kiosk user interface.
- The estimated costs for all of the required changes as provided by DOS and the relevant vendors is as follows:
  - A-List: \$78,000
  - Web services: \$30,000
  - User interface: \$240,000.
- The changes to the A-List system and the user interface will be performed by the relevant vendors.
- It is assumed that the modifications to the A-List system can be accomplished by the vendor under the current contractual agreement without a need for additional expenditures. However, if the scope of work required by this and other legislation subsequently enacted exhausts the relevant contract provision, such changes may result in an increase in state expenditures up to \$78,000 in FY23-24.
- The updates to web services will be performed by Strategic Technology Solutions (STS) within the Department of Finance and Administration.
- Therefore, these updates will result in an increase in expenditures to DOS estimated to be \$30,000 in FY23-24, as well as an increase in revenue to STS estimated to be \$30,000 in FY23-24.
- The updates to the user interface will result in an additional increase in state expenditures to DOS estimated to be \$240,000 in FY23-24.
- Under current law, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-2-201, DOS is required to provide voter registration applications to county election commissions. Under the provisions of this legislation, DOS is authorized to continue providing these electronically; as a result, there will not be a significant increase in state expenditures for providing such notifications to county election commissions.

## **CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director